

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020**

Those present: Omer C. Ahern, Jr., Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Jordan King, other residents

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chair Person, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Selectmen signed checks and reviewed minutes.

O.Ahern made a motion to approve with slight adjustments the Select Board Meeting Minutes 1/28/20. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion to approve as presented the Non Public Session 1 Minutes of 1/28/20. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion to approve as presented the Non Public Session 2 Minutes of 1/28/20. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion to accept the Intent to Cut for Louria/Bhavnani. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes", motion carried.

P.Koelb made a motion to accept the Intent to Cut for Thomson. Seconded by F.Muzzey. P.Koelb and F.Muzzey voted "yes", O.Ahern abstained. Motion carried with a vote 2-0.

Select Board unanimously agreed not to sign Intent to Cut for M.Gilbert until she obtains acceptable Trustee certification. L.Franz to follow up.

Select Board did not sign Annual Facilities Report. Requested that Randy Rugar review and approve. L.Franz to follow up.

Letter of resignation from Tanya Vela was read by O.Ahern, and she requested that the letter be recorded verbatim in the meeting minutes.

January 16, 2020

Town of Wentworth
Select Board
P.O. Box 2
7 Atwell Hill Road

Wentworth, NH 03282

Dear Francis Muzzey, Omer C. Ahern, Jr. and Palmer Koelb:

I respectfully submit my resignation from the position of Administrative Assistant for the Select Board of the Town of Wentworth, effective immediately. I am no longer available to

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perform the duties of this position due to the increasingly hostile work environment created by my coworker.

On 15 January 2020, I was verbally accosted by my coworker, accusing me of not performing duties of which I had no prior knowledge from the Select Board. She berated me in front of a Select Board member who did not defend me. From the beginning of my tenure, I felt unsupported and was not trained, nor provided with a description of my duties and have been subjected to public allegations for poor performance, due to misinformation.

Additionally, it has come to my attention that despite the lack of training or mentoring from the Select Board, when I failed to meet unspoken expectations, I learned that a Select Board member was actively recruiting others to take my place.

The extreme lack of professionalism and cumulative effect of these actions on my quality of life prompted me to submit this letter. My only regret is being unable to continue to work with the Town Officials whom I have come to respect and enjoy working with on a daily basis.

Sincerely Yours,
Tanya Housenecht Vela

Report from Randy Rugar from F.Muzzey. R.Rugar to dispose of cans as too many to keep under cover as required. Expressed need to have attendant attend a training class. L.Franz to look for available classes and follow up.

General discussion regarding roles of Town Administrator verses Administrative Assistant and training in such positions that may be available through the State of NH. No determinations/decisions made.

Chief Trott reported that the report to the Grafton County Attorney 's office pertaining to a pending criminal case has been completed. A plea and sentencing date will soon be set, hopefully before Town Meeting. Public requests a formal statement of criminal situation at Town Meeting, presentation to be determined. Chief also suggested that an annual audit be performed for the Trust Funds as well as general funds and budget. L.Franz to call Cohos Advisors to determine future services. May also inquire of other firms. Chief also reported that there have been some burglaries in Wentworth and surrounding communities. Investigations pending. Chief Trott also reported repairs were needed to his cruiser and adjusted his budget by \$500 to cover the cost of these repairs.

Jeff Ames announced that FEMA grants for Frescoln and Cross Road Bridges are good through 1/2/21 so no urgent need to address. Cross Road Bridge to be addressed for possible state funding in fall 2020.

Jordan King presented a Petition for Warrant Article to increase Select Board pay. Total proposed annual is \$12,500. There were discussions of opinions in favor and opposed. Petition has required number of signatures, so Warrant Article will be written.

F.Muzzey made suggested changes to proposed 2020 Warrant Articles.

Article 15-Library. Library Trustees need to review verify amount to come from unassigned fund balance. The balance at end of 2019 is \$3282.

Article 17-Elderly Exemption. Base on the 40% increase on specific income/asset limits per a chart created by F.Muzzey.

Article 21-EFT Emergency Lanes. Public agreed to reduce funding from \$10,000 to \$5,000 as recommended by F.Muzzey.

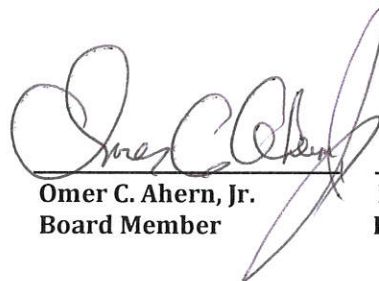
Article 23-Recovery of Landfill CR of \$84,394.65 to be kept at exact amount for auditing purposes. Public agreed.

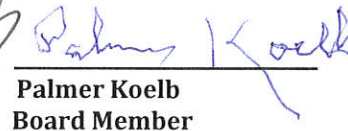
Article 24-Highway Equip. Hydraulic Broom and York Rake may not be a good choice of equipment as ditching would be needed. Suggested we hold off until next year and maybe purchase more efficient equipment. Public suggested to discuss with Road Agent at budget hearing on Feb. 10, 2020.

At 6:52pm, P.Koelb made a motion to adjourn. O.Ahern seconded, three voted "yes". Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz
Interim Administrative Assistant


Francis Muzzey,
Chairperson


Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member


Palmer Koelb
Board Member

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting and Budget Hearing
February 10, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm.

Those present: Francis Muzzey, Omer C. Ahern, Jr., Palmer Koelb, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Deborah Ziemba, Carol Young, Linda Franz and other residents.

At 5:05pm entered into a budget hearing.

Went through budget items with F.Muzzey's spreadsheet as it relates to Warrant Articles and combined budgeted items.

F.Muzzey suggested that Warrant Article 25 be re-written to reflect that all appropriations come from Capital Reserve account. General agreement from Select Board and public in attendance.

Select Board showed support for keeping 2020's tax rate to a minimal increase as it is already a hardship for many of the Town's residents.

Discussed an 8-year plan for Town's roadways that is posted on Town's website. Should be reviewed and possibly updated. No action yet proposed.

At 6:31pm a motion was made by P.Koelb to adjourn the Budget Hearing, seconded by O.Ahern. All voted "yes", hearing adjourned.

At 6:32pm. re-entered the Select Board Meeting.

It was decided by Select Board and members of the public in attendance by a show of hands that Warrant Article 25 be rewritten to take all \$135,421 for the paving of Red Oak Hill Road from the Capital Reserve Road Paving Fund and \$0 from general taxation. Warrant Article 25 to be rewritten for Town Meeting.

Chief Jeff Ames reported a snow machine accident in which the Baker River Snowmobile Club had no way to efficiently summon emergency services. Chief suggested that we may be able to use the Highway Department's radio frequency to call for assistance. A motion was made by O.Ahern to immediately work on a process to develop a system for the Snowmobile Club, Emergency Services and Highway Department to communicate during such emergency situations, including a memorandum of understanding and standard operating procedures. F.Muzzey seconded, all voted "yes" and motion carried.

A motion was made by O.Ahern to designate Select Board representatives to be present at polling place during the February 11, 2020 Presidential Primary. Beth Folsom and Ronnie

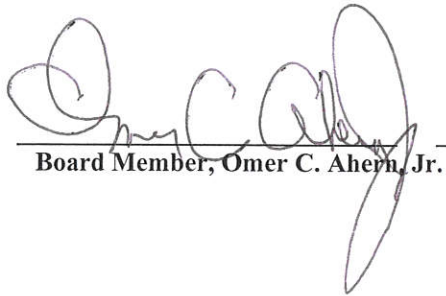
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Hajj volunteered and were named as these representatives. F.Muzzey seconded, all voted "yes" and motion passed.

O.Ahern made a motion to adjourn meeting. P.Koelb seconded, all voted "yes" and meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz, Interim Administrative Assistant


Chairperson, Francis Muzzey


Board Member, Omer C. Ahern, Jr.


Board Member, Palmer Koelb

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020**

Those present: Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Paul Manson, Richard Borger, other residents

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chair Person, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Selectmen signed checks and reviewed minutes.

F.Muzzey made a motion to accept the Select Board Meeting Minutes for Nov. 19, 2019, Dec. 3, 2019 and Dec.9, 2019. Seconded by P.Koelb. Both voted "yes" and motion carried.

Richard Borger, Wayne DeCotis and Mr. Wyman reported that the Wentworth Church is interested in purchasing the land where the historical "Doll House" now stands. This land will be used for a new septic system for the church. Discussion about the ownership of the land, possibly moving the Doll House structure to Historical Society property or the town common or purchase by a resident. Suggested that O.Ahern do a title search to determine ownership. No decisions made at this time, and this matter will be put on the ongoing items list on future meeting agendas.

F.Muzzey made a motion to accept and sign an intent to cut for Lee and Kathleen Dinner. Seconded by P.Koelb. Both voted "yes" and motion carried.

P.Koelb made a motion to accept and sign the Transfer Station Annual Facility Report for 2018. Seconded by F.Muzzey. Both voted "yes" and motion carried.

Discussed two Veteran's Credit Applications that were presented for signature. No action taken at this time. Select Board will address again after Town Meeting as credit amount may change upon town approval of a warrant article. Due to the wording of the warrant article, residents currently receiving credit may be required to reapply for the credit if change is accepted.

Selectman O.Ahern joined the meeting at 5:55pm. (Due to a medical appointment in Manchester and heavy snow fall, he was not able to attend the meeting when it started.)

F.Muzzey made a motion to accept and sign the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service Agreement. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

F.Muzzey made a motion to accept and sign a septic design revision for Wade Reed. Seconded by P.Koelb Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

P.Koelb made a motion to approve payment to Paul Manson for 24 hours of unused sick time earned in 2019 in the amount of \$609.00 (six hundred nine dollars) in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy. Seconded by O.Ahern. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

Paul Manson reported that he spent approximately \$4,000.00 on parts needed to get the International truck in running condition for the forecasted snow storm. Select Board reminded him that he needs to get prior approval from them before spending any amount over \$500. This may be done through a phone request.

Paul Manson reported that American Crane Company will be crossing the Ellsworth Hill Bridge with a 60K plus pound vehicle on Feb. 19, 2020 and a 125K plus pound vehicle sometime soon after that date to deliver components of a cell tower. He was concerned about the weight limits as they are not posted for the bridge. Jordan King informed that many logging trucks weighing approximately 100K pounds have crossed the bridge with no problem.

Paul Manson reported that he is having difficulty plowing and turning snow plow around in the vicinity of 68 Pond Brook Road due to vehicles parked on the sides of the road.

At 6:43 pm, O.Ahern made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3 II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Seconded by P.Koelb. F.Muzzey voted "yes", P.Koelb voted "yes", O.Ahern voted "yes". All three voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

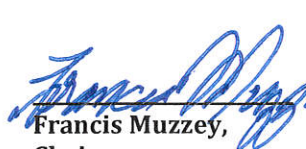
Re-entered public session at 6:50pm.

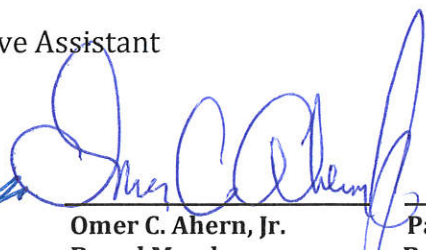
O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting. Seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

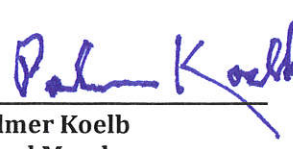
O.Ahern reported that he attended a seminar with the NH Municipal Association regarding moderating at town meetings as Steve Welch could not attend. He is requesting reimbursement of the \$65.00 registration fee. **P.Koelb made a motion to reimburse O.Ahern the \$65.00 (sixty-five dollars) fee for the seminar. Seconded by F.Muzzey. F.Muzzey and P.Koelb voted "yes", O.Ahern abstained. Motion carried with a vote of 2 to 0.**

P.Koelb made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz
Interim Administrative Assistant


Francis Muzzey,
Chairperson


Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member


Palmer Koelb
Board Member

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020**

Those present: Omer Ahern, Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Chief Trott, Kay Baily, Donna King, Linda Franz, Sharon Sanborn, Janice Thompson and other residents.

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Selectmen signed checks and reviewed minutes.

Steve Welch, Town Moderator, discussed with Select Board about who would speak about warrant articles at the Town Meeting. Determinations agreed upon.

Chief Trott to follow up with email from future resident regarding parking freight truck on side of Route 25 while loading woodworking business products.

Road Agent, who was not present at the meeting, will be asked to respond to an email from resident regarding Ellsworth Hill Bridge to remove guardrails for transport of (possible purchase) a modular home.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the three Yield Tax Levy warrants for Melanson, Louria and Borger. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Land Use Change Tax warrant for King. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Tax Abatement for Taylor. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application for property located on 1121 Mount Moosilauke Hwy. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application for property located on 69 Zoe Road. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application and Abatement Request for property located on 62 East Side Road. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

Current Use Application for Davis was not signed. L. Franz to check with Avitar regarding accuracy of information on application.

C.M. Whitcher contract was put on hold. L. Franz to do some cost comparisons with other local waste management companies.

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PWK *ZAM*

S. Sanborn inquired if there was interest in attending a “meet and greet” at the library for candidates in the upcoming elections. A good show of interest was expressed. Expected date is Sunday, March 8th from 1pm to 3pm. Library Trustees to follow up.

Chief Trott reported his understanding of Town records being audited as opposed to compiled by former accounting firm. The Police Department completed required sex offender registrations, processed several pistol permits, conducted welfare checks and conducted several proactive patrols on weekends and evenings to increase visibility of police presence (for no particular concern).

L.Franz reported that she is looking into setting up interviews with the Select Board with a few accounting firms. She explained the difference between a compilation and an audit noting a huge difference in cost and extensive preparation involved for an audit.

J. Thompson inquired about the receipt of the approx. \$84K insurance claim for theft of Capital Reserve Funds. Chief Trott believes the Town should be receiving the funds before Town Meeting. Discussed deferred sentence, restitution and further legal/court actions regarding the defendant. Chief Trott agreed to speak about this at Town Meeting.

D.King inquired about the process for getting older meeting minutes finalized and posted. Select Board is editing former Administrative Assistant’s draft minutes to make clear names that were abbreviated, formal motions made, and comparing uncompleted accounts of discussions against other notes taken. This is necessary to preserve integrity of minutes that are required to be retained permanently.

Discussed Town gravel pit. P. Manson was previously asked to provide his opinion on access, possible gravel yield, etc. J. Thompson suggested that the Town verify that it is a legal gravel pit. P. Koelb believes that it was previously licensed/approved. Will address as progression is made.

O. Ahern spoke about non-public sessions. Explained the protocols, processes, purposes and potential penalties of and in NH RSA 91-A:3.

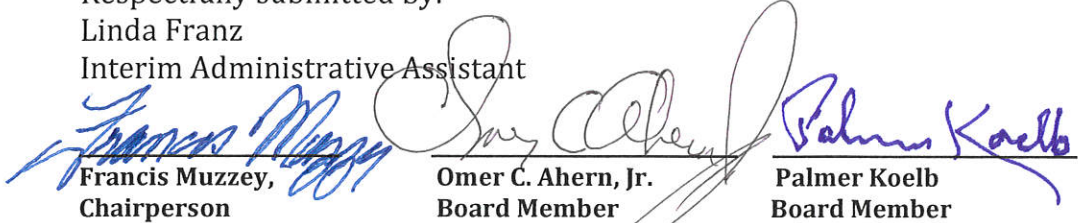
K. Baily expressed her upset towards a Town employee. Concerns included transparency between Select Board and employee and also transparency to public. She was also upset by self-referred title vs. true title of employment. Also suggested that personal comments and opinions be refrained from posting on social media.

F. Muzzey made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Franz

Interim Administrative Assistant



Francis Muzzey,
Chairperson

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member

Palmer Koelb
Board Member